

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for supplying breathable gas, the apparatus including:

a relatively rigid external housing;

at least one noise producing component internal to the housing, said at least one noise producing component including an electric motor blower and at least a first muffler; and

a thin flexible enclosure substantially sealed around said at least one noise producing component.

2. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material.

3. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the plastic material is Cosmohene F221-1 or polyethylene.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure includes an opening adapted to allow passage of each said noise producing component into an interior of the flexible enclosure.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the opening is sealable or closable by adhesive tape.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure includes one or more apertures to allow breathable gas into and out of each said noise producing component.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the noise producing component further includes a second muffler, said first muffler defining an inlet muffler and said second muffler defines an outlet muffler, wherein atmospheric air is drawn through the inlet muffler before entering the blower and the resulting pressurized air passing through the outlet muffler after leaving the blower, and the enclosure includes a first aperture substantially sealable with respect to an exterior of an inlet of the inlet muffler and a second aperture substantially sealable or engagable with respect to an exterior of an outlet of the outlet muffler.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the enclosure includes a third aperture for passage of one or more wires for transmitting power or control signals to an electric motor and/or other electrical components, the third aperture being substantially closed or sealable relative to the exterior of the wire(s).

9. (Previously Presented) A method of assembling an apparatus for supplying breathable gas, the method comprising:
providing at least one noise producing component in a sub-assembly;

placing the sub-assembly into the interior of a flexible enclosure through an opening therein;

substantially sealing or closing the opening; and

subsequently, placing the flexible enclosure within an external housing.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material designed to dampen noise from said at least one noise producing component.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for supplying breathable gas, the apparatus including:

a relatively rigid external housing;

at least one noise producing component internal to the housing; and

a flexible bag-like plastic material enclosure to receive said at least one noise producing

component, wherein the enclosure includes a wiring aperture for passage of one or more wires for transmitting power or control signals to an electric motor and/or other electrical components, the wiring aperture being substantially closed or sealable relative to the exterior of the wire(s).

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plastic material is Cosmohene F221-1 or polyethylene.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the flexible enclosure includes an opening adapted to allow passage of said at least one noise producing component into the interior of the flexible enclosure.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the opening is sealable or closable by adhesive tape.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the flexible enclosure includes entry and exit apertures to allow breathable gas into and out of the enclosure.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at least one noise producing component includes a blower, and at least one of an inlet muffler and/or an outlet muffler.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plastic material of the flexible enclosure is designed and structured to dampen noise from said at least one noise producing component.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for supplying breathable gas, the apparatus including:

a relatively rigid external housing;

at least one noise producing component internal to the housing; and

a thin flexible enclosure provided for said at least one noise producing component, said enclosure being substantially independent of the external housing.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the plastic material is Cosmohene F221-1 or polyethylene.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein a shape of the enclosure is substantially independent of a shape of the external housing.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the shape of the enclosure is dissimilar to the shape of the external housing.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the enclosure comprises a bag-like structure having at least one main opening to initially receive the at least one noise producing component.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the at least one noise producing component includes a blower to generate pressurized gas in the range of 4-20 cm H₂O.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the enclosure includes a first aperture substantially sealable with respect to an exterior of an inlet of an inlet muffler and a second aperture substantially sealable with respect to an exterior of an outlet of an outlet muffler.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material designed to dampen noise from said at least one noise producing component.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for supplying breathable gas, including:
a relatively rigid external housing including at least one compartment;
an electric motor provided at least partially within the at least one compartment; and
a noise suppressing member consisting essentially of a thin flexible enclosure provided to said electric motor.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the flexible enclosure is bag-like.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, further comprising at least one muffler within the enclosure and operatively connected to the electric motor.

DANTANARAYANA
Appl. No. 09/868,875
January 17, 2007

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the compartment occupies only a sub-portion of an internal volume of the external housing, and the flexible enclosure occupies a volume defined by the sub-portion.